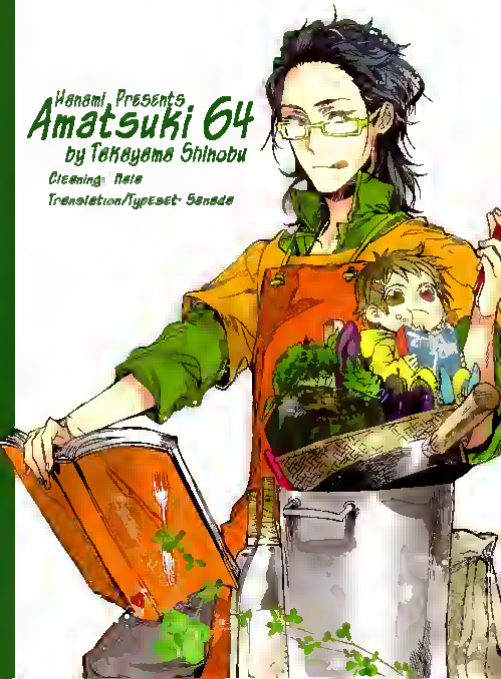
Wanami Presents

Amatsuki 64

by Takayama Shinobu

Cleaning: Rais

Translation/Typeset: Sanada



Translation Notes

Page 1

"We were born to play, we were born to be happy" is a line from the "Ryoujin Hishou," a Heian-period song collection. Even though the song was written hundreds of years earlier it was still popular in the 1800s.

Page 3

The title of this chapter, "Scattering Millet," or "kibarashi," is a seasonal word used in haiku poetry. When millet grains are allowed to overripen in the fall they explode and scatter their seeds everywhere

Page 16

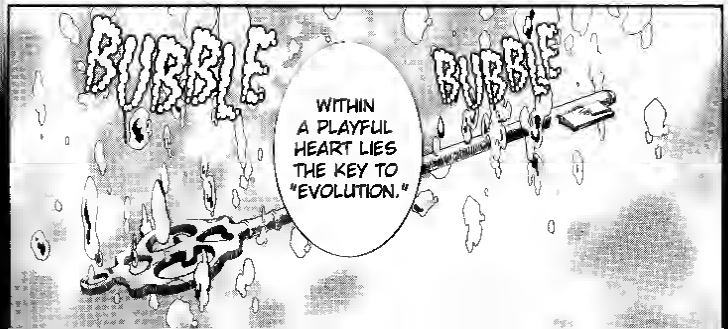
In programming, data - numbers, text files, etc. - are called "objects," and they're stored somewhere in the computer's memory. Object pointers tell the program where the "object" is located. For intensive operations it's usually faster and easier for the program to reference the pointer not the object itself. That's how your computer keeps track of all the junk on your hard drive. If an object pointer becomes corrupted or lost the program might not be able to find the data but that doesn't mean it's been deleted!

"We were born to play."

"We were born to be happy."

Chapter 61: Scattering Millet

EVEN WHEN WE BECOME ADULTS, WE YEARN TO FEEL AS WE DID WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN.
EVER SINCE THE THESE WORDS WERE WRITTEN ALMOST A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, "PLAY" HAS BEEN SEEN AS THE LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES THE FUTURE.



YOU COULD USE THIS TO CONTROL A COMPUTER WITH BRAIN WAVES INSTEAD OF A MOUSE
IT'S PART OF MY COLLECTION
THESE THINGS ARE VALUABLE ANTIQUES THESE DAYS!
IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY, MACHINES LIKE THIS WERE USED TO DETECT BRAIN WAVES.
I WANT TO SEE!
SO IT'S NOT LIKE WE COULD CREATE "NEWTYPES" LIKE IN ANIME!
OF COURSE, ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T HAVE CONSCIOUS CONTROL OVER THEIR BRAIN WAVES
AND BY ASSIGNING A KEY TO THAT DATA, YOU CAN USE IT FOR INPUT...
BY READING THE ALPHA AND BETA WAVES, YOU CAN DETECT THE MOVEMENT OF THE EYES AND MUSCLES.
WE'RE NOT LIKE THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OR ANYTHING.
USING THIS TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT THE SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN A NEWBORN BABY...
LIKE,
FOR INSTANCE,
BUT THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS WE CAN'T DO.
THIS TECHNOLOGY WAS CREATED FOR ENTERTAINMENT.
FOR "PLAY."

THAT I NEEDED TO OPEN THE DOOR TO "EVOLUTION."
THESE PURPOSELESS MACHINES WERE THE KEY...
Chapter 64: Scattering Millet

talk
talk
HA
HA
HA

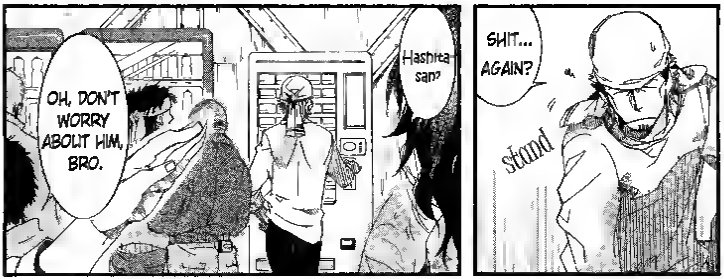
IF I JUST HAD SOME BEER AND CIGARETTES, I'D HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!
talk
talk
HEY, THIS GRUB AIN'T BAD!
HAHA, THAT'S IT?
talk

YEAH, THE TOBACCO TAX KEEPS GOING UP TOO...
talk
IT'S MURDER, MAN!
BEER IS TOO EXPENSIVE!
I'VE BEEN CRAVING A DRINK ALL DAY - AND THIS JUST AIN'T CUTTING IT!
sigh
talk
HA
HA
JUST GO BUY SOME FROM A VENDING MACHINE!

SHOUT
HEY, EVERY-BODY!
YOU ALL WORKED HARD TODAY!
SO COME ON, LET'S EAT!
YOU DID A GREAT JOB!

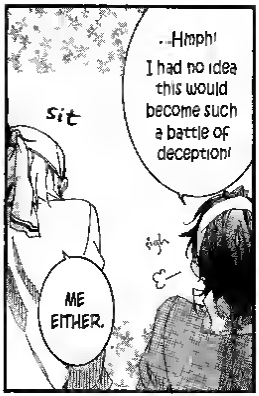
May I sit here?
smile
AONIBI! WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT?
If it's so bad, then why don't you give up smoking?
HUH?
YOU MUST BE NEW HERE.
THAT POLO SHIRT DOESN'T FIT
Oh, yes, i'm new!
talk
nod nod
talk
CHEW CHEW
REALLY?
WELL, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE HANGING OUT WITH THAT GUY.
HE'S PRETTY HELPFUL.
EVEN IF HE AIN'T MUCH TO LOOK AT
HEY!!
HA HA HA
SO, UH, AONIBI, ARE YOU DOING HEAVY LABOR TOO?
Oh no, I just wanted to see what Hashira san was up to.
So I disguised myself!
HUH?
whisper
I think you're fitting in quite well!
whisper
I DO OKAY.
whisper
UNLIKE A CERTAIN SOMEBODY, I'M ACTUALLY CAPABLE OF ACTING LIKE A NORMAL GUY...
GLARE
GLARE
GLARE
BUT I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT YOU.
Haha haha~
GIGGLE

talk
talk
I HEARD THAT HE GOT YELLED AT BY THE SUPERVISOR, AND HE JUST STORMED OFF!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
FUKA-GAWA?
HUH?
WHERE'D HE GO?
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN FUKAGAWA LATELY?
OOH. WHAT A DUMBASS
HM?


OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, BRO.
Hashita-san?
SHIT... AGAIN?
stand

HA HA HA
YEAH, HE'S KINDA LIKE A JUVE-NILE COP, ISN'T HE?
PFFFT
Ooh, he sounds like he's really thought-full
talk
THERE ARE A LOT OF YOUNG, TOUGH GUYS AROUND THIS PLACE.
Alright, you can turn off the grill
IN THIS CAFETERIA, IF YOU DON'T RUSH TO LINE UP WHEN IT'S TIME TO EAT, THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT WHEN YOU GET THERE.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, HASHITA LOOKS OUT FOR THEM.
talk
SO HE ALWAYS SAVES SOME FOOD FOR FUKAGAWA.

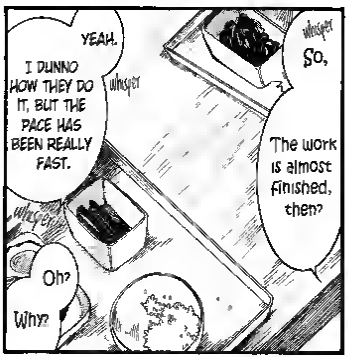
H...
Hashita-san! You've been telling people who you really are!
whisper
whisper
SO?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ADVERTISING.
IT JUST CAME UP IN CONVERSATION.
whisper
Still!! Why are you telling people that!
SPITTER
WH-
WH-
WHAT?!
WHAT'S WRONG, BRO?
GOT A CRIMINAL RECORD?
DON'T WORRY, HE'S AN EX-COP.
EX.
NOW HE'S JUST AN OLD FART CONSTRUCTION WORKER.
HA HA
BUT IT'S TRUE!
GRR
DON'T CALL ME AN OLD FART, YOU OLD FART.
SMACK!
IF I GET CAUGHT TELLING A BOLD-FACED LIE, NOBODY'S GONNA TRUST ME.
SO I MIX IT UP.
AROUND HERE, GUYS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE FORCE FOR A LONG TIME GET RESPECT!
NOT THAT I'M OLD.
FIVE PARTS TRUTH, THREE PARTS LIE, TWO PARTS EXAGGERATION - IT WORKS!!
IDIOT.
THESE GUYS KNOW ME, AND THEY AIN'T STUPID.
DUMB-ASS.
whisper
But if people know you used to be a cop, that might arouse their suspicions...


...Hmph!
I had no idea this would become such a battle of deception!
sit
ME EITHER.

huff
pout
!
IF ANYBODY IS GONNA "AROUSE THEIR SUSPICIONS," IT'S A WEIRDO LIKE YOU!
YOU NEVER KNOW - THERE COULD BE PEOPLE WHO REPORT BACK TO HEADQUARTERS AROUND HERE.

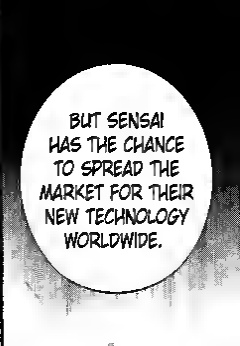
talk
talk
talk
HEY, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THIS CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL LAST?
HUH?
THE "EDO PERIOD TRAVELING EXHIBIT" IS OPENING PRETTY SOON.
SO I GUESS WE'D BETTER FINISH THE INTERIOR FAST!
THAT'S FOR SURE

whisper
WELL, IT'S GOTTA BE DONE IN TIME FOR THE OPENING DEBUT, I GUESS.
Ahh, I see.

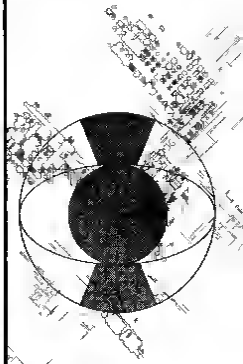

whisper
YEAH.
I DUNNO HOW THEY DO IT, BUT THE PACE HAS BEEN REALLY FAST.
whisper
So,
The work is almost finished, then?
Oh?
Why?

THE GOVERNMENT IS DESPERATE TO FIND A PRODUCT THAT HAS BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL APPEAL..
RIGHT NOW, THE CABINET IS IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES
Aha!
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SUMM
LOOK. UP THERE
Ah, so that's why they're in such a rush!
I GUESS
NEXT MONTH, JAPAN'S TAKING PART IN A MAJOR 12-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND THEY WANT TO UNVEIL IT THERE
YEAH. SO THE GOVERNMENT'S PUSHING FOR THIS THING TO GET DONE.
I see now why this project is sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology...
...YEAH, YOU WOULD KNOW. FREAK.
Sorry!
Historical video games have an international otaku following!
Oooh, but foreigners love things like that!
Geisha! Harakiri! Ninjas!
BUT I DUNNO WHY THEY CHOSE AN EDO PERIOD THEME TO REPRESENT "JAPAN APPEAL"...

SHOUT
WHAT? FOR REAL!? NO WAY!!
IF THEY DID, THE REVENUE THEY'D LOSE JUST FROM KIDS COMING ON FIELD TRIPS WOULD BE HUGE.

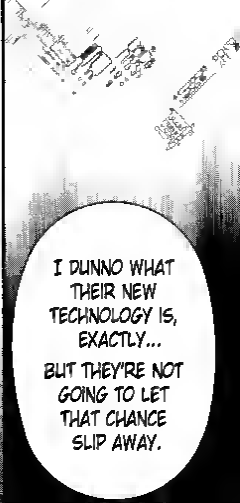

BUT SENSAI HAS THE CHANCE TO SPREAD THE MARKET FOR THEIR NEW TECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE.

Talk
YOU KNOW THE CONSTRUCTION IS 80% COMPLETE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?



I HEARD THEY WERE GOING TO USE THEIR OWN EMPLOYEES
BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES?
Talk
Talk

WHAT!?
BUT THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THEY'RE GONNA FIRE ALL US PART-TIME LABORERS!!
GASP


I DUNNO WHAT THEIR NEW TECHNOLOGY IS, EXACTLY...
BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET THAT CHANCE SLIP AWAY.

talk
talk
I GUESS WE WON'T HAVE MANY DAYS LEFT.
WELL, AS LONG AS I GET PAID ON TIME, I DON'T CARE.

talk
YEAH, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF A COMPANY FIRING ALL THE WORKERS BEFORE THE WORK IS DONE!
WHAT THE ...!?
THAT'S CRAZY!

talk
talk
sigh
I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO EXAMINE SOME OF THE TECH SYSTEMS ..
SO FAR, WE'VE ONLY DONE CONSTRUCTION AND DECORATION WORK
They're handling a huge project like this... with their own workers?

THOROUGHLY ENJOYED HIMSELF
But apart from etiquette and customer service drills, I didn't really collect any information.
grin
Oh!
I had a great time! I got to cosplay and drink tea and eat cakes!

MAN...
THIS JOB'S OVER, AND I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
I didn't even get to see their system, much less touch it! What a waste of time!

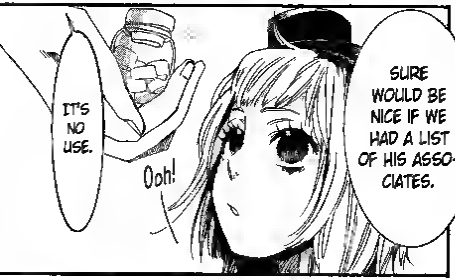
A FIGHT!!
YEAAH, FIGHT!!
FIGHT!!
A FIGHT!!
Waah!
CRASH
DIE!!

KUWATA SUOU, BORN IN KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE, DIED SEVEN YEARS AGO.
AS FOR PERSONAL HISTORY, HIS FAMILY MOVED TO TOKYO WHEN HE WAS FIVE, AND HE ENTERED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT THE AGE OF SIX
HE STARTED GETTING IN TROUBLE BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, AND BY THE TIME HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL. .
HE WAS ALREADY HANGING OUT IN A BIKER GANG.
A real problem child!
AROUND THAT TIME IS WHEN HE MET HASHITA-SAN.
HASHITA-SAN ACTUALLY ARRESTED HIM TWICE
ALL IN ALL, HE GOT ARRESTED FOUR TIMES
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE HE STOPPED SHORT OF ANY VIOLENT OFFENSES.
!!
I PULLED TOGETHER THAT DATA YOU WANTED ON KUWATA SUOU, BUT...
IT'S NOT ANYTHING WE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.
AMONG HIS FRIENDS, HE WAS KNOWN AS THE KIND OF GUY WHO WOULD GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OFF HIS BACK.
SINCE HE COULD NEVER IGNORE ANYBODY IN NEED, HE HAD A WIDE SOCIAL CIRCLE.
BUT THEN HE BECAME A DELIVERY DRIVER FOR THE SENSAI COMPANY.
I THINK HASHITA-SAN MENTIONED THIS, BUT.. AFTER GRADUATION, HE BECAME A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN MOTORCYCLE MECHANIC
SO HE WAS A COURIER, HUH?

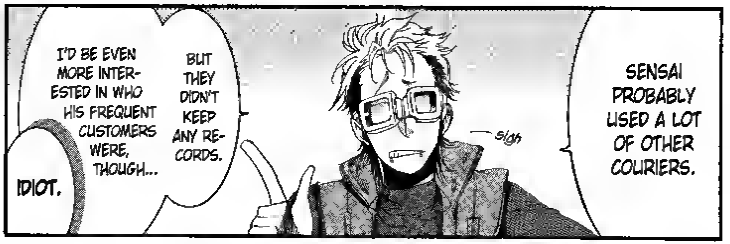
I DON'T KNOW WHY I SUSPECT THAT, BUT I DO.
WE HAVE NO DATA TO BACK IT UP, BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME HE WASN'T RUNNING A NORMAL DELIVERY SERVICE...
SQUEEK
IT DOES SEEM SKETCHY, DOESN'T IT?

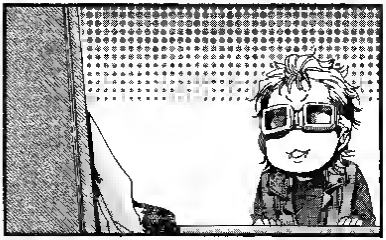
BUT I WONDER IF HE QUIT HIS OTHER BUSINESS WHEN HE STARTED WORKING FOR SENSAI?
POKE POKE
HMM... WELL, IT ALL FITS WITH WHAT HASHITA ALREADY SAID...

HE'D HAVE HAD TO KEEP IT HIDDED FROM SENSAI.
MAYBE, BUT THAT COULD BE AN ISSUE.
Here, Lily-chan, I got you a present!
THE GANG STUFF?


IT'S NO USE.
Ooh!
SURE WOULD BE NICE IF WE HAD A LIST OF HIS ASSOCIATES.

A GUY WHO'D GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OFF HIS BACK, HUH...?


I'D BE EVEN MORE INTERESTED IN WHO HIS FREQUENT CUSTOMERS WERE, THOUGH...
IDIOT.
BUT THEY DIDN'T KEEP ANY RECORDS.
sigh
SENSAI PROBABLY USED A LOT OF OTHER COURIERS.



IF SENSAI WAS THAT SLOPPY...
YOU'D BE OUT OF A JOB.
SMIRK

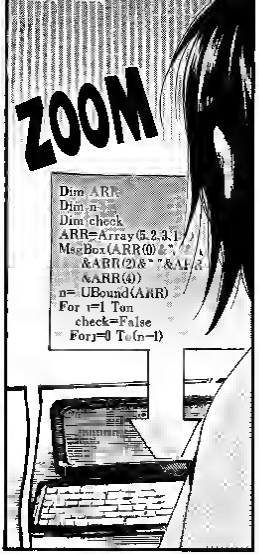
...BUT SHIRAAI-SAN, YOU COULD LET ME GO UNDERCOVER IN THE EDO-PERIOD THEME PARK!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO SAY YES?
SLAM
It's almost open!

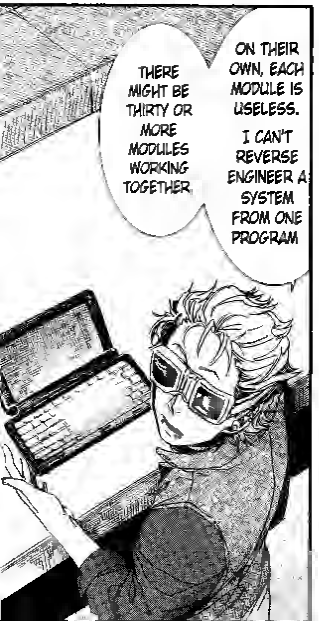
I guess that's no
ANYWAY, DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TO DO HERE?
ANY NEWS?

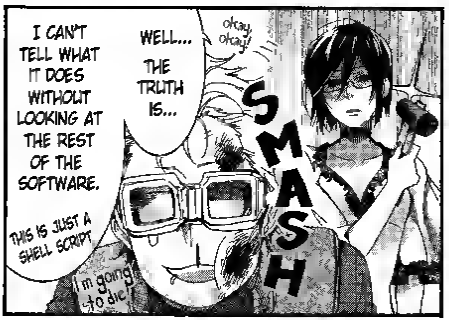
HERE, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
click
OH, YEAH... WELL, NOTHING CONCRETE, BUT I'VE GOT SOME THEORIES.

OH, SHIRAAI-SAN, I KNOW IT'S WRONG, BUT... I LOVE WHEN YOU TALK NERDY TO ME...
blush
KYAA

I'M LOOKING.
WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
WHAT IS THIS SHIT!?
!


ZOOM
Dim ARR
Dim n
Dim check
ARR=Array(5,2,3,1,
MsgBox(ARR(0)&"
&ARR(2)&" "&ARR
&ARR(4))
n= UBound(ARR)
For i=1 To
check=False
For j=0 To(n-1)

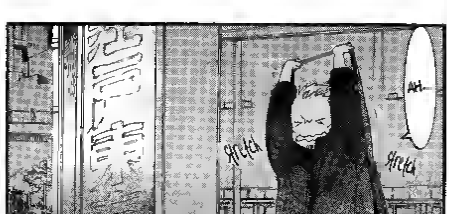

THERE MIGHT BE THIRTY OR MORE MODULES WORKING TOGETHER
ON THEIR OWN, EACH MODULE IS USELESS.
I CAN'T REVERSE ENGINEER A SYSTEM FROM ONE PROGRAM


I CAN'T TELL WHAT IT DOES WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE REST OF THE SOFTWARE.
WELL... THE TRUTH IS...
okay, okay!
THIS IS JUST A SHELL SCRIPT
I'm going to die
SMASH

FOR INSTANCE, YOUR COMPUTER HAS ONE PROGRAM TO TURN THE FAN, AND ANOTHER TO CONTROL WIRELESS NETWORKING, AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF SHELL SCRIPTS TO TIE THEM ALL TOGETHER
?

OKAY, MAYBE IT WOULD BE EASIER IF YOU IMAGINE THAT PROGRAMMING IS LIKE COOKING!
...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IMAGINE THERE'S A SECRET RECIPE, BUT THE HEAD CHEF DOESN'T WANT THE ASSISTANT TO FIGURE IT OUT.
SO HE MIXES UP THE REAL INGREDIENTS WITH SOME THAT DON'T BELONG.
THE ONLY ONE WHO NEEDS TO KNOW THE REAL INGREDIENTS IS THE HEAD CHEF, SO HE CAN MIX THEM TOGETHER...
DO YOU FOLLOW ME?
SENSAI
This is how object pointers work!
NOT REALLY.
?
OBJECT POINTER STEW
AND FROM THAT, I HAVE TO RECREATE THE WHOLE SEQUENCE OF STEPS THAT THE CHEF USED TO MAKE THE RECIPE.
BUT... IF THERE'S SOMETHING BLOCKING ME, I CAN'T ACCESS ALL THE DATA IN THE SUB-FOLDERS.
SO YOU CAN THINK OF MY JOB AS PICKING STUFF OUT OF THE POT WITH A FISHHOOK.

SO I SET IT UP SO THE HOOK WAITS QUIETLY...
UNTIL THE "TRANSFER" RECONNECTS.
THEN I SET IT UP SO IT REELS IN MY LINE DURING THAT FIVE MINUTE WINDOW.
YOU SEE, MY "FISHING LINE" AND "HOOK" MOVE ALONG DATA TRANSFER CONNECTIONS
BUT THE SYSTEM IS AUTOMATICALLY CONFIGURED TO CUT OFF CONNECTIONS AFTER FIVE MINUTES
OH, NO, IT'S STILL OKAY.
SO THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T GET THE DATA WE NEED?
YEAH, IT'S SORTA LIKE THAT. ANY-WAY,
grin
The "fishing line" connects to the memory! The "fishhook" is a virus!
...OH, SO IT'S LIKE A PARASITE.
THAT'S DISGUSTING.
CHITO
begi
HUH?
IT'S CALLED "CHITOSE?"
THIS IS THE DATA MODULE THAT MY "FISHING LINE" CAUGHT.
IT'S GOT A PRETTY WEIRD NAME FOR A PROGRAM, THOUGH...

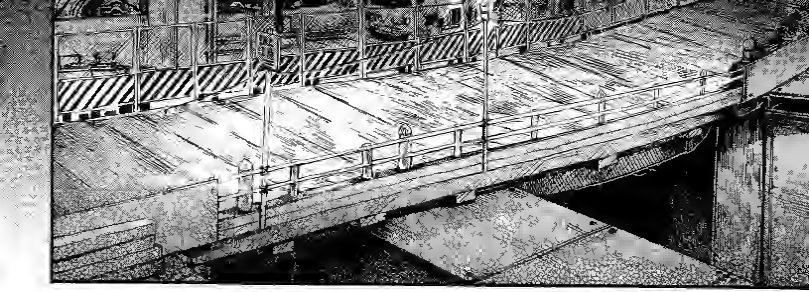

AH-
SHCK
SHCK

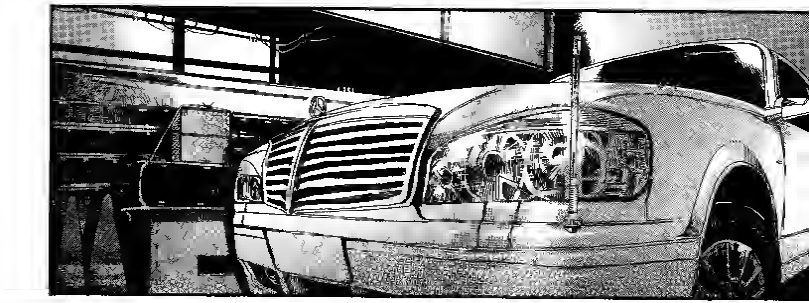
I'M GETTING OLD...
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BACK...
MAN...
UGH...

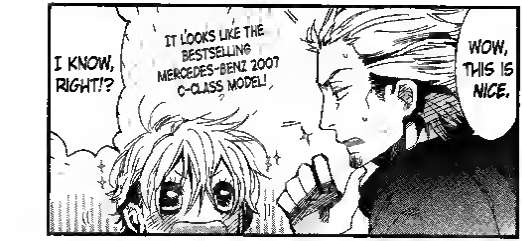
GASP

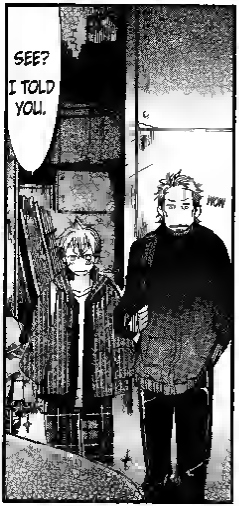
SHOCK
FUKA-GAWA?

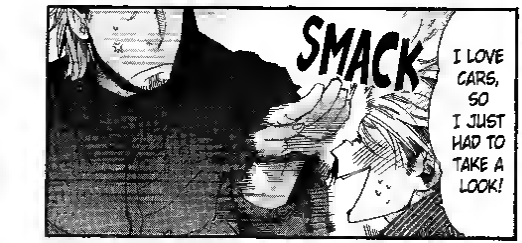
HEY, OLD MAN HASHITA!
I'M NOT OLD!
DAMN IT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
YOU MISSED WORK THIS AFTERNOON!!
WAS THERE ANY FOOD LEFT FOR YOU IN THE CAFETERIA?
... YEAH.
IF YOU CAME BACK TO EAT, THEN YOU SHOULDA CAME BACK TO WORK!!
GRR
GRR
BUT YOU RAN AWAY!
N..
NO I DIDN'T!
YES YOU DID!
DID NOT!!
I... I WAS REALLY GOING TO COME RIGHT BACK!
BUT..
BUT THEN I SAW A TOTALLY SWEET BENZ!!
IT WAS PARKED BEHIND THE CAFETERIA!






I KNOW, RIGHT!?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE BESTSELLING MERCEDES-BENZ 2007 C-CLASS MODEL!
WOW, THIS IS NICE.


SEE? I TOLD YOU.
WOW


SMACK
I LOVE CARS, SO I JUST HAD TO TAKE A LOOK!

SMASH
WAH!!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN DITCH WORK!!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
You're mean!
JINGLE
whine
BUT...
HUH!?
DASH
JINGLE
SOUNDS LIKE THE OWNER'S COMING BACK.
JINGLE
NOW WHY...
OLD MAN?
...
glance
WOULD SOMEBODY RICH...
PARK A SWANKY CAR IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
DAMN IT.

SHOCK
I'VE DONE RATHER WELL FOR MYSELF, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
TOO NICE...
FOR THIS SORT OF NEIGHBOR-HOOD, DON'T YOU THINK?

THAT'S
!
WELL, YOU KNOW ...
YOU CAN'T ACHIEVE UNLESS YOU AIM HIGH.
THAT'S ALL I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
HASHITA SAN?
HA HA
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
...!!
HA HA
RIGHT?
HA
!

SHOCK
No... it can't be him!
SFX: *CRASH*